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The growth of undergraduate biology majors has also helped increase the size of the graduate program and it has also increased the number of faculty who teach biology. Currently, there are 14 graduate students in the department. Also, the department has a number of post-doctoral students who work under professors whose post-doctoral fellows are following a tradition in the field of biology in which one works under a professor much as an intern studies before becoming a doctor. The "student" can then go into teaching or research.

All of these groups in the biology department — the faculty, post-doctoral fellows, graduate students and some undergraduates — are working on a number of research projects. Most of the research centers on cell biology and molecular biology.

One project within this field is cancer research. In fact, David Baltimore, associate professor of biology, discovered reverse transcriptase and this became a focal point for research into the cause of cancer.

The growth in the undergraduate program has been quite large in the last few years. There were only 140 majors in September 1968 compared with the 363 majors today. A quick look at a few more statistics reveals the magnitude of this growth. General Biology, 7,901, a basic required course, was taken by only 260 students in 1968. This number increased to 700 students last year. General Biochemistry increased from 110 to 280 students.

Many of these new students are planning to become doctors. Yet, even though about 50% of the biology majors apply to medical school, the percentage relative to previous years has remained about the same. Therefore, there has been an increased interest in many aspects of biology.

Of course the growth of the biology department has taken away students from other departments. But Professor Magazsink does not see it as competing with the School of Engineering as much as within the School of Science itself. He said that it is very hard to pinpoint where a student would be educated had they majored in a different department. The general trends as listed by the registrar, however, show that the biology department's growth has been accompanied by a decrease in the number of physics majors. Since 1965, the biology department gained 247 students while the physics department decreased by 141 students. These aggregate figures, though, can only serve as a general guide to the trends.

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### Biology department grows

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